

**Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Local Advisory Council's
Steering Committee
Public Health Huddle Room
1930 Ninth Avenue, Helena, MT
Tuesday, July 16, 2019, 2:00pm**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Jill Steeley called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

Members in Attendance: Jill Steeley (Chair), Matt Furlong (Vice Chair), and Drenda Niemann.

Staff in Attendance: Jocelyn Olsen.

2. LAC Recruitment

Three applications were presented to the Steering Committee, all of which were approved.

According to the roster held with the Board of County Commission, John Wilkinson has termed out and will not be able to participate as a member but will still be encouraged to continue attending meetings and workgroups. Jess Hegstrom and Ray Roberts will both need to be reappointed as the terms they had taken over expired this year.

ACTION: Jocelyn Olsen will get an updated roster from Nadine McCarty to disperse to the Steering Committee and will send the three approved applications to Nadine for appointment by the Board of County Commissioners.

3. Fiduciary and Finances

Matt Furlong suggested that the LAC establish a different fiduciary as there are currently some struggles utilizing LAC funds and calculating the amount specifically designated to the LAC. Drenda Niemann explained that financial responsibilities should just be transferred to a specific department with the County. Drenda volunteered the Health Department to take on this role.

Matt shared that the LAC received funds from an application he sent in to Western Montana Mental Health for Suicide Prevention. Matt emphasized the importance of having a paper trail of money spent.

Drenda shared that Public Health was awarded the Screening and Access to Care grant of approximately \$10,000. The funds will be distributed from July 1st through June 30th. The goal will be to recruit a paid intern to take on staff support duties for the LAC.

ACTION: Drenda will speak with the pertinent individuals in finance to determine how the Health Department can be deemed the financial manager of the LAC. Jill Steeley will reach out to Carroll College for recruitment of an intern.

4. Faith Leaders in Mental Health

An AmeriCorps VISTA, Rachel Dober, sent an email in regards to the project she has been working on regarding incorporating faith leaders in support of mental health. The Committee pondered whether it would be best to have Rachel attend the next LAC meeting to answer some questions regarding her project and the exact duties faith leaders will assume.

ACTION: Matt Furlong will reach out to Rachel to determine her availability for presenting at the September LAC general meeting.

5. Civil Commitments

Jocelyn Olsen explained a basic understanding of civil commitments and suggested that the LAC learn more about what civil commitments are and how they work in our community. Jill Steeley suggested that workgroups one and three look at the current effectiveness of resources prior to advocating for civil commitments. Drenda Niemann suggested it may be most beneficial to have a meeting series at general LAC meetings to discuss the definition of civil commitments, what the community has to offer in support, and what the LAC can do to help.

6. September Agenda

LAC Officer elections will take place. Matt Furlong will become the Chair and Jill Steeley will become the Past Chair. The LAC will need to elect a new Vice Chair who will then take on the Chair position next year. The committee discussed potentials for this position.

Montana Peer Network requested that the LAC consider changing their title from Mental Health Local Advisory Council to Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council to be more encompassing. The LAC will vote on this change at the meeting.

Fifteen minutes will be set aside for Rachel Dober to complete a presentation on faith leaders and mental health, if she is available.

Usual workgroup updates will be held.

ACTION: Jill Steeley will contact potential Vice Chair candidates to determine their interest. Jocelyn Olsen will draft a new Resolution and Bylaws to present to the LAC when voting on the name change.

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.